

Amendments to the Claims:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A ferrule having a transverse axis and comprising:
at least two alignment pin holes into which alignment pins for positioning ~~with respect to a~~
mating ferrule are inserted; and
a plurality of fiber fixed holes for inserting an optical fiber, said fiber fixed holes being formed
at predetermined locations along said transverse axis with respect to said two
alignment pin holes, ~~wherein~~ each of said fiber fixed holes ~~has~~ having at least a fiber
guide portion for guiding the optical fiber, a fiber hole portion adjacent said fiber guide
portion to receive the tip end of the optical fiber, and a fiber insertion portion adjacent
said fiber guide portion, said fiber insertion portion being that is formed as a common
fiber insertion portion to receive ~~a plurality of~~ sheathed portions of a plurality of the
optical fibers; ~~and~~
wherein said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion are joined with a connecting
positionportion having a tapered shape; ~~and~~
wherein said fiber insertion portion is ~~provided with~~ has a movement regulating means
comprising a convex portion for regulating the movement of ~~a~~ said sheathed portions of
the optical fibers along said transverse axis ~~in the direction of arrangement of the~~
~~sheathed portion~~, and the width of said fiber insertion portion at the convex portion in
~~said movement regulating means~~ in the direction perpendicular to ~~the direction of~~
~~arrangement of the sheathed portions~~ said transverse axis is smaller than the diameter of
said sheathed portion.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A ferrule having a transverse axis and comprising:
at least two alignment pin holes into which alignment pins for positioning with respect to a
mating ferrule are inserted; and

a plurality of fiber fixed holes for inserting an optical fiber, said fiber fixed holes being formed at predetermined locations along said transverse axis with respect to said two alignment pin holes ;

wherein each of said fiber fixed holes has at least a fiber guide portion for guiding the optical fiber, a fiber hole portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the tip end of the optical fiber, a fiber insertion portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the sheathed portion of the optical fiber, and an adhesive agent pool for receiving adhesive for fixing the optical fiber formed at the opening portion of said fiber insertion portion; and

wherein said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion are joined with a connecting position portion having a tapered shape; and

wherein the width of the opening portion of said adhesive agent pool in the direction perpendicular to ~~the direction of arrangement of sheathed portion~~ said transverse axis is larger than the width of said opening portion in the direction of said transverse axis ~~arrangement of sheathed portion~~.

12. (previously presented) The ferrule according to claim 11, wherein said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion are formed into a continuous taper shape.

13. (currently amended) A ferrule comprising:

at least two alignment pin holes into which alignment pins for positioning ~~with respect to a~~ mating ferrule are inserted; and

a plurality of fiber fixed holes for inserting an optical fiber, said fiber fixed holes being formed at predetermined locations along said transverse axis with respect to said two alignment pin holes;

wherein each of said fiber fixed holes has at least a fiber guide portion for guiding the optical fiber, a fiber hole portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the tip end of the optical fiber, a fiber insertion portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the sheathed portion of the optical fiber, and an adhesive agent pool for receiving adhesive for fixing the optical fiber formed at the opening portion of said fiber insertion portion,

said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion being joined with a connecting ~~position~~portion having a tapered shape, said fiber insertion portion ~~being provided with a movement regulation means comprising~~ having a convex portion for regulating the movement of a sheathed portion of the optical fiber in the direction of said transverse axis ~~arrangement of the sheathed portion; and~~

wherein the width of the opening portion of said adhesive agent pool in the direction perpendicular to the direction of said transverse axis ~~arrangement of sheathed portion~~ is larger than the width of said opening portion in the direction of said transverse axis ~~arrangement of sheathed portion~~.